

NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
318 South Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Tel: 217/492-4450

JAN PAUL MILLER
U.S. ATTORNEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



For Immediate Release
February 4, 2005

Contact: Patrick J. Chesley
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(217) 492-4450

Former Quincy Businessman Charged with Bank Fraud Scheme

Springfield, Illinois -- Jan Paul Miller, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury has returned an indictment charging Gary D. Harpole, age 58, of Daytona Beach, Florida with making false representations to two Quincy area banks.

According to the indictment, Harpole owned and operated Harpole Accounting Firm and Harpole Rentals which did business in West Central Illinois. The indictment alleges that beginning about July 1997 to the spring of 2000, Harpole provided the Corn Belt Bank and Trust Company with false information regarding his personal financial condition and that of his businesses. The indictment alleges Harpole provided the bank with false and fraudulent federal income tax returns and overstated accounts receivable.

Specifically, the indictment charges Harpole with six counts of bank fraud that allege Harpole used the false representations to secure loans from the Corn Belt Bank and Trust Company for his business, Harpole Accounting Firm, or for himself, personally as follows:

- ▶ \$250,000 line of credit for Harpole Accounting Firm on August 6, 1997;
- ▶ An increase to the line of credit, from \$250,000 to \$350,000, on October 21, 1998;
- ▶ \$40,000 loan to Harpole on March 30, 1999;
- ▶ \$100,000 loan to Harpole on April 30, 1999;
- ▶ \$30,100 loan for Harpole Accounting Firm for computer upgrades at Pittsfield, Illinois office on July 28, 1999; and,
- ▶ \$50,000 loan to Harpole on February 16, 2000.

(More)

Further, the indictment alleges that from January 14, 2000 to April 13, 2000, Harpole made false statements and willfully overvalued property to influence First Bank of Quincy, Illinois, to refinance a loan in the amount of \$228,937 on three properties located in Quincy, Illinois. Harpole allegedly provided the bank with federal income tax returns that were different from the returns filed with the Internal Revenue Service in that they overstated Harpole's income. The indictment further alleges Harpole provided the bank with a false financial statement that failed to include various loans from the Corn Belt Bank and Trust Company as well as two \$100,000 loans Harpole had received from business partners.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

If convicted, each count of the offense of bank fraud and of making a false statement to a bank carries a maximum statutory penalty of up to 30 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1,000,000. The court will issue a summons for Harpole to appear in federal court in Springfield for an initial appearance.

The charge is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, and the Illinois State Police. Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Chesley is prosecuting the case.

##